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OOC 63-3019

9 October 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Senate Foreign Relations Hearing with Secretary Rusk
and Mr. Bell, 9 October 1963

1. Mr. Lee Miller of AID was present at the subject hearing and took notes. In connection with interagency relationships in South Viet-nam, he said Secretary Rusk made a clear difference between recommendations and estimates on the one hand and the role played by agencies on execution of policy on the other hand. He said he would expect differences in recommendations and estimates and would wonder what was wrong if he did not get them. On the roles played by departments and agencies, including CIA, he had no evidence of any refusal to carry out policy. He knew of no dramatic confrontations between CIA and the Ambassador or anyone else and knew of no bitterness between agencies. He also said there could be no "Seven Days in May" in South Viet-nam. He stated that CIA does not make policy and the President is in control of CIA. The Secretary pointed out that he is represented on committees which coordinate actions of CIA among others and that he had no knowledge of any defiance or any problems in execution of directives.

2. Mr. Fulbright asked, in line with Mr. McNamara's testimony about assignment of a large paramilitary role to CIA, whether such assignments of missions could cause tension between the agencies. Mr. Rusk said this was possible but he did not know of any such tension. Fulbright then asked why this overt-covert paramilitary function was given to CIA. Mr. Rusk said it was his impression that at the time these activities were decided upon CIA had better personnel and better training and techniques to undertake these activities but that the armed services had developed this capability and the functions are now in the process of being transferred.

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3. Commenting on the news reporting for South Viet-nam, Secretary Rusk recalled his own experience in the China-Burma-India theater during the war when they were very low down on the totem pole and felt unable to get anything done, and their frustrations were taken out by everyone in griping and complaining. He said he had never heard of any acts of undiscipline by CIA, and insofar as the general situation was concerned we cannot quit in South Viet-nam and we cannot take over; therefore, we have to follow a middle ground in which the Nhu family is the chief problem. We can try to stop their suppressive actions and may be able to use AID for some control. Senator Church asked if AID was so used, and the Secretary said as yet they had made no public statements on this.

4. Bell, commenting on Haberstam's article in The New York Times of 8 October that the Administration was dragging its feet said they were reviewing policy as to the best action that can be taken with the regime.

5. The questions then turned to U. S. policy and aid to Indonesia and Iran and indicated that they might ask the Director questions on the Bosch overturn in the Dominican Republic and the takeover in Honduras. On these points, Assistant Secretary Martin has already given a minute-by-minute account of the information received. Secretary Rusk goes back to the Committee on Friday for testimony in connection with the military aid program in Latin America. The Committee may very well query the Director on some of the trouble spots in connection with the Latin American situation.

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